



Afternoon Alert - Thursday, March 1, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK and TV Asahi led with reports on the strong wind and heavy rain in Japan today. NTV gave top play to a report that Takanoiwa, the sumo wrestler who was assaulted by Harumafuji last year, held a press conference for the first time since the incident. TBS led with a report on the Diet debate over Prime Minister Abe's decision to remove from work reform legislation a proposal to expand the application of the so-called discretionary work system. Fuji TV gave top play to a report that Olympic wrestling champion Kaori Icho's coach allegedly subjected her to "power harassment."

INTERNATIONAL

ROK leader comments on comfort women dispute

NHK took up a speech made on Thursday by South Korean President Moon, in which he commented on the comfort women issue by saying: "As the perpetrator, Japan should not say that the matter is closed." He criticized the GOJ's insistence that the dispute was already settled with the 2015 bilateral accord by saying: "A genuine resolution can only be found by remembering the unfortunate history and learning lessons from it." The ROK leader also suggested that Seoul will not ask Tokyo to take additional specific measures on this front by saying: "I will not ask for special treatment from Japan. I just hope that as our closest neighbor, Japan will move forward with us into the future with heartfelt remorse and striving for reconciliation."

Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga reportedly reacted sharply to Moon's statements, telling the press: "The remarks cannot be accepted as they run counter to the bilateral agreement. It is extremely regrettable. We've lodged a strong protest through diplomatic channels. Japan has already implemented all the measures that needed to be taken based on the pact. We strongly call on South Korea to properly uphold its own obligations." The government spokesman added that the GOJ is committed to enhancing coordination with South Korea along with the United States in dealing with

North Korea's nuclear and missile development, which he stressed is the most pressing issue right now. Other broadcasters ran similar stories.

- [Moon urges Japan's remorse, reconciliation on "comfort women" issue](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan seeks North Korean action to solve abduction issue](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Editorial: Don't be lulled by N. Korea's smiles, but determine its intent to denuclearize](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Beware North Korea's Olympic charm offensive](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Is the NPR beneficial to Japan?](#) (Sankei)

ECONOMY

- [U.S. amenable to trade talks with Japan, 4 other TPP members: USTR](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Outline of government's draft IR implementing law](#) (Asahi)
- [Caesars Entertainment presents vision for integrated resorts at press event in Tokyo](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Feb. 28–March 1, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gov't to remove contentious part in labor reform draft bill: Abe](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Chronology of discretionary work system issue and political schedule for 2018](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Business sector certain to protest dropping discretionary work system from labor reform bills](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan's Lower House approves record ¥97.71 trillion budget for fiscal 2018](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Main provisions of four types of LDP proposals for Article 9 revision](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

EDUCATION

- [Many Japanese travel to Philippines to study English](#) (Kyodo News)

SECURITY

Ethical hackers go after malicious hackers who stole cryptocurrency

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported that one month has passed since 58 billion yen worth of cryptocurrency was stolen by hackers from one of Japan's biggest cryptocurrency exchanges, saying that programmers called "white hat hackers" are working day and night to discover the perpetrators. The perpetrators have apparently dispersed the stolen cryptocurrency to as many as 17,000 accounts and are using the "dark web" to conceal their activities. The white hat hackers have created a new analysis program to track down the perpetrators. Meanwhile, the Tokyo Metropolitan Police have set up a headquarters comprising about 100 personnel to investigate the theft of the cryptocurrency.

- [Japan in Depth / Satellite to keep tabs on N. Korea](#) (The Japan News)

- [Abe says studying plan to refit destroyer Izumo as aircraft carrier “quite natural”](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

- [Co-leader of anti-Henoko relocation umbrella group “All Okinawa Council” to resign](#) (Ryukyu Shimpō)
 - [Okinawa might ask U.S. military to dispose of waste on its own](#) (Ryukyu Shimpō)
 - [Fisheries Agency proposes partial alteration of Pacific bluefin tuna fishing quota system](#) (Okinawa Times)
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